

**Examiner's Amendment/Comment**

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It was not executed in accordance with either 37 CFR 1.66 or 1.68.

**Reasons for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 17-34 are allowable over the closest prior art cited in the Search Report, viz., EP 0819706 and WO 01/25296.

The claimed invention is a process for polymerizing at least one alpha-olefin, including a step of obtaining a prepolymerized metallocene-based catalyst by:

"continuously contacting at least one alpha-olefin with a metallocene-based catalyst system in a loop reactor at a temperature ranging from 25°C to 70°C, wherein

(i) the alpha-olefin and metallocene-based catalyst system is in a liquid medium;

and

(ii) an average residence time of the metallocene-based catalyst system is not more than 30 minutes;